APPENDIX I:

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Cancel Claims 1 and 2 and enter new Claims 3 to 8 as indicated in the following listing of the claims:

1. (*canceled*)

2. (*canceled*)

3. (*new*) A process for reducing the ethyl 3-dimethylamino-2-phenyl-propionate content of a cis/trans mixture of ethyl 2-dimethyl-amino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate which is contaminated with said phenylpropionate, which process comprises

   selectively converting the ethyl 3-dimethylamino-2-phenyl- propionate into ethyl atropate by eliminating dimethyl amine without essentially affecting the cis/trans ratio of the ethyl 2-dimethy-lamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate by

   providing a solution of the contaminated cis/trans mixture of the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate in a water immiscible solvent,

   adding to said solution a carboxylic acid in amounts of from 0.75 to 2.0 equivalents per mole of the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1- phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate, and

   stirring the resulting reaction mixture for 0.5 to 2 hours at a temperature of from 50°C to 100°C.

4. (*new*) The process of claim 3, wherein the resultant content of 3-dimethylamino-phenyl-propionic acid-ethylester is below 0.10%.

5. (*new*) The process of claim 3, which further comprises recovering the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate by extracting the water immiscible solvent phase at an alkaline pH with water and subsequently concentrating the water immiscible solvent phase.

6. (*new*) The process of claim 3, which comprises

   adding to the solution of the contaminated cis/trans mixture of the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate in a water immiscible solvent a formic acid and/or acetic acid in amounts of from 0.75 to 2.0 equivalents per mole of the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate,

stirring the resulting mixture for 0.5 to 2 hours at a temperature of from 50°C to 100°C.

7. (*new*) The process of claim 6, which further comprises recovering the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate by extracting the water immiscible solvent phase at an alkaline pH with water and subsequently concentrating the water immiscible solvent phase.

8. (*new*) The process of claim 6, wherein the resultant content of 3-dimethylamino-phenyl-propionic acid-ethylester is below 0.10%.

Current Claims 3 to 8:

3. (*new*) A process for reducing the ethyl 3-dimethylamino-2-phenyl-propionate content of a cis/trans mixture of ethyl 2-dimethyl-amino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate which is contaminated with said phenylpropionate, which process comprises
selectively converting the ethyl 3-dimethylamino-2-phenyl-propionate into ethyl atropate by eliminating dimethyl amine without essentially affecting the cis/trans ratio of the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate by
providing a solution of the contaminated cis/trans mixture of the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate in a water immiscible solvent,
adding to said solution a carboxylic acid in amounts of from 0.75 to 2.0 equivalents per mole of the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate, and
stirring the resulting reaction mixture for 0.5 to 2 hours at a temperature of from 50°C to 100°C.

4. (*new*) The process of claim 3, wherein the resultant content of 3-dimethylamino-phenyl-propionic acid-ethylester is below 0.10%.

5. (*new*) The process of claim 3, which further comprises recovering the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate by extracting the water immiscible solvent phase at an alkaline pH with water and subsequently concentrating the water immiscible solvent phase.

6. (*new*) The process of claim 3, which comprises
adding to the solution of the contaminated cis/trans mixture of the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate in a water immiscible solvent a formic acid and/or acetic acid in amounts of from 0.75 to 2.0 equivalents per mole of the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate,
stirring the resulting mixture for 0.5 to 2 hours at a temperature of from 50°C to 100°C.

7. (*new*) The process of claim 6, which further comprises recovering the ethyl 2-dimethylamino-1-phenyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate by extracting the water immiscible solvent phase at an alkaline pH with water and subsequently concentrating the water immiscible solvent phase.

8. (*new*) The process of claim 6, wherein the resultant content of 3-dimethylamino-phenyl-propionic acid-ethylester is below 0.10%.